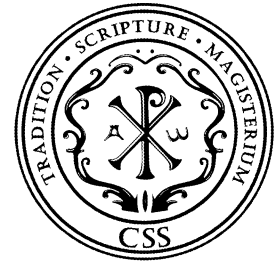


Revelation



Notes from the Podium

By Fr. Matthew Kauth

These notes are intended to augment your own reading and study of the lesson. Please use as an aid to help document the main message of the lecture.

Revelation 7:1-17

- I. Recap Lesson 5- Covenant: blessings and curses
 - A. “Wrath of the Lamb”
 - B. 3-fold promise of 7-fold curse
- II. Angels:
 - A. 4 Angels at 4 corners of Earth
 1. Earth = altar (temple is Microcosm, earth is macro-temple). On this altar the sons of God offer, as a natural priesthood in Old Covenant and divine priesthood in New Covenant, all things in the created order up to the Father.
 2. Holding back the 4 winds of the earth
 - B. An Angel from the East (the land of the rising sun)
 1. The East is a symbol of Christ’s 2nd Coming – this is where you look to for the rising sun.
 2. “Orient” = East
 - a. Churches in the early church were oriented towards the East to await the return of the Savior.
 - b. Orientation means to face a particular direction – East.
 - c. Correct “orientation” = toward Christ
 - d. This is why, at one time, the Apse, the priest, and the people faced the same direction – East
 - e. Churches no longer have this physical sense of orientation. Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI): describes this as an “enclosed circle”. Results in a lost sense of movement.
 - i. Priest acting as head of Christ and people as the body moving toward the Father.
 - ii. This is the movement of the Church in Adoration - The Militant Church marching toward Heaven
 - iii. Enclosure leads to emphasis on ourselves
 3. This Angel carries a Seal (like a signet ring)
 - a. To seal the foreheads of the servants of God.
 - b. The Tau - *Ezek 9* - Hebrew letter “tau” which had the form of a cross.
 - i. Some say this is the mark placed upon Cain
 - ii. Today we are marked with the cross in Baptism, Confirmation, and Ordination. The Altar is also sealed with a cross.
 - c. Unlike *Ezek 9*, this seal does not save them *from* destruction, but *for* it, *through* it.

Notes from the Podium (cont)

- i. The cross is an instrument of death like the electric chair or guillotine.
 - ii. Those marked will stand with the Lamb. Recall the “Wrath of the Lamb” and what response it draws forth – “I want to give my life”
 - iii. Sufferings have an infinite merit for us when they are united to the cross of Christ.
 - iv. As a Christian, we must carry our cross; we cannot lay it down.
- III. Tribes
 - A. Judah , mentioned first – Christ, “ the Lion from the tribe of Judah”
 - B. Dan is not mentioned here
 1. Speculation: *Gen 49:17* - Dan is considered the serpent
 2. Early church though antichrist to come from tribe of Dan
 - C. 12,000 from each tribe = 144,000
 1. The Remnant (the church militant)
 2. 144,000 meant to be symbolic: 12 tribes(old covenant) x 12 apostles(new covenant) x 1000 (great multitude)= 144,000
- IV. “A great multitude” - *Rev 7:9*
 - A. From every tribe, nation, people, tongue...
 - B. These individuals are in heaven, the church triumphant
 - C. Clothed in white robes (priestly)
 - D. Carrying palm branches
 1. Sign of victory – *IMacc 13, 2Macc 10, John 12*
 2. Feast of Tabernacles – Booths made of palm branches
 3. Booth/tabernacle no longer need to be built, Christ is the tabernacle, and so symbolism is that of victory.
 - E. All of heaven fall worships
 - F. “Who are these clothed in white robes?”
 1. They have come out of the tribulation
 2. Note Irony – white robes washed in blood
 3. The victory is Christ’s
 4. “washed and saved”
 5. Baptism = washing. Fulfillment of Baptism is to become a witness, a martyr
 6. Everyone in Heaven is a martyr
 - a. either a martyr of blood or a white martyr
 - b. St. Augustine – “Many are Martyrs in their beds.”
 - c. Each is given a particular tribulation, a cross to bear, with which to witness to Him.
 - d. All to become a witness to Him as He was a witness to His Father.
 7. They are before the throne, sheltered by the presence of He who sits upon the throne
 8. The Lamb becomes the shepherd – *Ps. 23*
- V. *Ezek 8 & 9*
 - A. Recall the 490 years of penitence
 - B. Why so long?
 1. Idolatry
 - a. Sacrifice and incense offered to idols within the Holy of Holies.
 - b. “The Lord does not see us”

Notes from the Podium (cont)

2. When the liturgy becomes a matter of abomination – the temple is destroyed.
3. When will the temple of this world be destroyed?
 - a. It is all tied to the proper and perfect adoration of God
 - b. The Mass is the perfection and the fullness of offering of the Son to the Father
 - c. Responsibility, laid upon Catholics, to pray right and to adore in “Spirit and in Truth”.